(c) The Bank has reported that the officer has been placed under suspention from its service with effect from 14.9 185. Disciplinary proceedings against the officer have also been initiated.

Loan for fishing trawlers

857. PROF. B. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total amount of loan drawn by the fishing trawlers owners from the Shipping Development Fund Committee and various nationalised banks so far;

(b) how many of them have not so far made any payment to the SDFC and the nationalised banks;

(c) what steps Government are taking to recover the dues; and

(d) what are the reasons for which the SDFC and the nationalised banks are not declaring the individual companies who did not pay dues as sick industries and take over the trawlers which could be easily auctioned to recover the dues in the same manner as in other sick industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Prior to the abolition of the Shipping Development Fund Committee on 3rd April 1987, Rs. 60.76 crores was drawn as loan by deep-sea fishing trawler companies. Subsequently, during the period, 3rd April 1987, till 31st January 1988, Rs. 12.71 crores has been disbursed by Government to deep-sea fishing trawler companies and, in addition, the Shipping Credit & Investment Company of India Ltd. has provided loan assistance respect of fresh proposals to the extent of Rs. 3.72 crores.

(b) Till 31st January 1988, 39 companies had defaulted in payment to Government of instalments of the principal and/or of interest due.

(c) and (d) For recovering dues from defaulting fishing-trawler companies, the Shipping Credit & Investment Company of India Ltd., which has been notified as the 'designated person', has been advised to initiate action in accordance with the provisions of Chapter-III of the Shipping Development Fund Committee (Abolition) Act, 1986. The said Act permits, *inter-alia*, the appointment of Receivers in such companies, who have the power to sell such vessels by public auction, or to use, operate, charter or lease such vessels to generate incomes, rents or profits to meet the liabilities of the defaulting companies to Government.

Water development in respect of peninsular rivers

858. PROF. B. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Water Development Agency has discussed a proposal for water development in respect of peninsular rivers;

(b) if so, what are the details of the proposal;

(c) what is the quantum of surplus water that can be transferred from some of the rivers having surplus water to those having less water; and

(d) what are the details of the plan to divert part of west flowing rivers in Kerala to the east for irrigation and to save chronic drought affected areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) and (b) The National Water Development Agency is engaged in the investigations and feasibility studies of Peninsular Rivers Development Component of the National Perspectives for Water Resources Development. The Society of the National Water Development Agency recently discussed a note on

future trends of Water Resources Development in the Peninsular region.

(c) and (d) Studies regarding water availability and demands in the various river basins including west flowing rivers in Kerala, which will lead to conclusions about quantum of surplus water available for transfer to deficit areas are expected to be completed in the 8th Plan.

Restoration of concessions to powerlooms

859. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Maharashtra Government have requested the Government of India to order to fresh look at the new textile policy and restore the concessions to powerlooms; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and action taken by the Central Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) and (b) The Government of Maharashtra have suggested that the differential concessions in excise duty, which the powerloom sector enjoyed prior to the Budget of 1985-86, should be restored and powerlooms in decentralised sector should not be treated on par with powerlooms in the mill sector.

This matter has been considered and it is felt that the healthy development of powerloom sector should take place in the context of parity between powerlooms in organised mill sector and in unorganised powerloom sector.

Problems of Handloom Sector in Maharashtra

960. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Maharashtra Government have written to the Government of India about the problems of the handloom sector in Maharashtra; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the response of the Government of India thereto?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) and (b) Government of Maharashtra have written to the Government of India suggesting that the rate of subsidy on the production of Janata Cloth should be increased from Rs. 2 per square metre to Rs. 3 per square metre A proposal for increasing the rate of Janata subsidy is under consideration of Central Government.

Crisis in Powerloom Industry of Maharashtra

861. SHRI JAGESH DESAI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that nearly 50 per cent powerlooms in the country are located in Maharashtra;

(b) whether on account of withdrawals of concessions and treatment of powerlooms on a par with composite mills coupled with a hike in the price of yarn powerlooms have been affected and more than 50 per cent of powerlooms in Maharashtra are facing closure; and

(c) if so, what steps the Central Government propose to take to help the powerlooms industry from closing down?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) Maharashtra accounts for roughly 35 per cent of the total number of powerlooms for which applications for registration have been filed.

(b) and (c) The levels of weaving activity in the decentralised power-